

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2689

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 2044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: BAHR MEETING WITH BERLIN SPD FRAKTION

REF: BERLIN 2038, 2039, 2040

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH SPD FRAKTION OF BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NOVEMBER 29, FRG MINISTER EGON BAHR ADOPTED UNUSUALLY FIRM PUBLIC POSITION ON CURRENT BERLIN ISSUES SUCH AS CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS, TRANSIT TRAFFIC, FEDERAL "PRESENCE" IN BERLIN, AND GDR PRESSURE FOR SEPARATE SENAT-GDR NEGOTIATIONS. IN SO DOING, BAHR WAS APPARENTLY SEEKING TO DISPEL NOTION THAT HE HAD LITTLE CONCERN FOR FUTURE OF BERLIN, AND TO BUILD UP POLITICAL CAPITAL THAT HE UNDENIABLY LACKS IN CITY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH SPD FRAKTION OF BERLIN HOUSE OF
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REPRESENTATIVES NOVEMBER 29, HELD JUST PRIOR TO LUNCHEON

WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS (REFTELS), FRG MINISTER BAHR SHARPLY CRITICIZED DECISION OF GDR TO DOUBLE CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITS TO EAST BERLIN AND GDR. THIS UNILATERAL STEP, BAHR DECLARED, CONCERNED LETTER OF AGREEMENT, AND WAS AGGRAVATING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO GERMAN STATES.

3. IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE ALLIES IN POTENTIAL THREATS TO TRANSIT ROUTES, BAHR STRESSED TO SPD FRAKTION THAT GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR TRANSIT TRAFFIC LAY WITH FOUR POWERS, AND THAT TWO GERMAN STATES HAD SIMPLY TO CONCERN SELVES WITH ITS IMPLEMENTATION. SHOULD GDR SEEK TO UNDERMINE TRANSIT TRAFFIC, THE APPEAL SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY MADE TO FOUR POWERS.

4. ON FEDERAL "PRESENCE," BAHR NOTED THAT QA HAD AFFIRMED THAT NO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WORKING IN BERLIN SHOULD HAVE TO LEAVE. FEDERAL "PRESENCE" IN CITY, HE CONTINUED, WOULD ALSO BE MAINTAINED IN FUTURE. (SIGNIFICANTLY, PERHAPS, BAHR DID NOT MENTION ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY.) BAHR EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND SENAT SHOULD ADDRESS ONLY MATTERS THAT COULD NOT BE HANDLED BY FRG.

5. FURTHER TO EMPHASIZE CONCERN FOR BERLIN, BHAR MADE PUBLIC FACT THAT HE WAS MEETING LATER WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS, AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE SECTION OF BREZHNEV-BRANDT COMMUNIQUE OF LAST MAY TO EFFECT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND SOVIET UNION COULD BE NO BETTER THAN SITUATION IN BERLIN.KLEIN

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